

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (New) An image decoding apparatus for decoding image data including plural image sequences, said image decoding apparatus comprising:

a memory having plural memory regions respectively corresponding to the plural image sequences, and being operable to hold decoding information to be used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded;

a memory region selection unit operable to select one of said memory regions in said memory based on image identifying information which indicates a target image sequence to be decoded, said one of said memory regions corresponding to the target image sequence to be decoded;

a temporary data holding unit operable to temporarily hold the decoding information of the target image sequence transferred from said memory;

a decoding information transfer unit operable to transfer the decoding information of the target image sequence collectively from said one of said memory regions selected by said memory region selection unit to said temporary data holding unit; and

a decoder operable to perform decoding on the image data of the target image sequence based on the decoding information held in said temporary data holding unit.

9. (New) The image decoding apparatus of claim 8, wherein said temporary data holding unit is a register operable to hold the decoding information of the target image sequence, and said register is included in said decoder.

10. (New) The image decoding apparatus of claim 8, wherein said temporary data holding unit is a temporary memory region operable to hold the decoding information of the target image sequence, said temporary memory region being included in said memory and being different from said plural memory regions respectively corresponding to the image sequences.

11. (New) An image decoding apparatus for decoding image data including plural image sequences, said image decoding apparatus comprising:

a memory having plural memory regions respectively corresponding to the plural image sequences, and being operable to hold decoding information including plural parameters to be used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded;

a parameter storage position decision unit operable to decide storage positions of parameters, which are required when a target image sequence to be decoded is decoded, in one of said plural memory regions corresponding to the target image sequence to be decoded based on image identifying information which indicates the target image sequence; and

a decoder operable to perform decoding on the target image sequence based on the parameters stored in the parameter storage positions decided by said parameter storage position decision unit;

wherein said parameter storage position decision unit is operable to specify one of said plural memory regions corresponding to the target image sequence based on the image identifying information, and to decide the storage positions of the parameters which are required when the target image sequence is decoded on said specified one of said plural memory regions based on a type of the required parameters.

12. (New) An image decoding method for performing decoding on image data comprising plural image sequences based on respective decoding information of the image sequences, said method comprising:

selecting a memory region corresponding to a target image sequence to be decoded, from plural memory regions respectively corresponding to the image sequences, in a memory for holding decoding information to be used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded, based on image identifying information which indicates the target image sequence;

transferring decoding information of the target image sequence collectively from the selected memory region to a temporary data storage unit for temporarily holding the decoding information of the target image sequence, and decoding the image data of the

target image sequence, with reference to the decoding information stored in the temporary data storage unit.

13. (New) A program storage medium containing a program for making a computer perform data processing on image data including plural image sequences, wherein said program is a data processing program which makes the computer perform said method of claim 12.

14. (New) An image decoding method for decoding image data including plural image sequences, said method comprising:
selecting decoding information of a target image sequence to be decoded from decoding information respectively including plural parameters of the image sequences, the decoding information being stored in a memory and being used when the image data of the respective image sequences are decoded;

deciding storage positions in the memory of parameters which are required for decoding, among the plural parameters constituting the selected decoding information;
and

decoding the image data of the target image sequence based on the parameters stored in the decided storage positions;

wherein, in said deciding of the storage positions of the parameters, the memory region corresponding to the target image sequence is specified based on image identifying information, and the storage positions in the specified memory region of the parameters which parameters are required when the target image sequence is decoded are decided based on a type of the parameters.

15. (New) The image decoding method of claim 14, wherein said deciding of the storage positions in the memory of the parameters which are required for decoding decides the storage positions of the required parameters based on the image identifying information, which indicates the target image sequence.

16. (New) A program storage medium containing a program for making a computer perform data processing on image data including plural image sequences, wherein
said program is a data processing program which makes the computer perform said method of claim 14.